

## Archives and Archaeology Celebrated in October



News and image from De'Niecechsi Layton

Nan Harvey has been volunteering with Archives and Records Services since January 2004 in the Media Room. For the past 3 years, in addition to assisting patrons with their research, she has been going through death certificates on microfilm and compiling a database of those who died at the Mississippi State Insane Hospital.

The Mississippi State Lunatic Asylum opened in Jackson on January 8, 1855 at what is now the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The asylum was renamed the Mississippi State Insane Hospital in 1900. The hospital was there until the present Mississippi State Hospital was opened in Whitfield on March 4, 1935.

Nan has recently completed the database of Insane Hospital deaths, which consists of approximately 4,380 deaths that occurred from November 5, 1912 to March 9, 1935. The database includes the death certificate number, date of death, patient's name, sex, race, age at death, length of stay at the hospital, county of residence and cause of death. This database not only includes patient deaths but also infants who may have been born and died there while the mother was a patient.

Nan became interested with the Insane Hospital because she is naturally curious and worked at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in the Department of Microbiology for forty years. She lives in Jackson but is originally from Yazoo County.

When asked about her twelve years of continuous volunteer service in the Media Room, Nan said, "There's never a dull moment and I enjoy meeting a lot of nice people." For her dedication, Nan has received numerous Governor's Awards of Merit and the President's Volunteer Gold Award in 2015.



## Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

- In the 1830s, members of the five civilized Native American tribes were forced to move to Oklahoma. These five tribes which included descendants of the First Mississippians were:
  - Choctaw, Cherokee, Apache, Chickasaw, and Creek
  - Choctaw, Hopi, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Seminole
  - Seminole, Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Creek
  - Creek, Navajo, Choctaw, Natchez, and Chickasaw
- The first southeastern Indians to accept removal to the Indian Territory did so under the Treaty of:
  - Doak's Stand
  - Fort Adams
  - San Lorenzo
  - Dancing Rabbit Creek
- The Native American tribes in Mississippi most often built and lived in:
  - Teepees
  - Wattle and daub houses
  - Adobe houses
  - Wigwams

**Answers are on the last page.**

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MDAH is thankful to all of our volunteers for the countless services and experiences that we are able to furnish to the general public, school children, scholars, and history lovers because of your help. MDAH volunteers' much-needed expertise truly makes a positive difference in our Mississippi communities.

During the month of October, archivists and archaeologists throughout the United States celebrate their fields. MDAH volunteers serve in these two areas year-round, and we thought it appropriate to showcase some of their important projects in this issue. Our leadership and staff thank all of you for your service. Happy Thanksgiving from your MDAH family,

Elizabeth Coleman, CVA  
Volunteer Services





## Archaeology: Excavating with John Connaway

*News and images from John Connaway*

In October 2016, the annual Archaeological Conservancy Bus Tour, which included thirty people, led by Jessica Crawford, Southeastern Archaeological Conservancy Regional Director, visited the Carson Mounds where John Connaway presented a "show & tell" program on the excavations and artifacts found there (image 1).

Under John's tutelage, volunteer Amanda Hoogstraat presented a talk on the burials recorded and what they reveal about the people who lived at Carson some 600 to 800 years ago. Then volunteers Benny and Gena Roberts and Bo Pitts showed some of the visitors their excavation of what is called an insertion trench (images 2 and 3), an elongated sloping pit where a large post was dragged down the slope and raised upright to drop into a deep posthole. The post was possibly a support for a clan totem or some similar kind of symbol.

The volunteers traveled over two hours from Jackson and Hernando to assist with the tour which was very much appreciated. The Carson excavations have been ongoing for the past nine years with the generous help of numerous volunteers and students, and the Archaeological Conservancy which owns four of the remaining mounds and about nine acres of the excavation area near Mound A. To date, almost 8,000 features have been recorded, including structures, stockades, pits, burials, and postholes.

**Special thanks  
to our MDAH  
volunteers who  
work on this im-  
portant excava-  
tion under John's  
leadership!**

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# Archaeology: Research Services and Collections

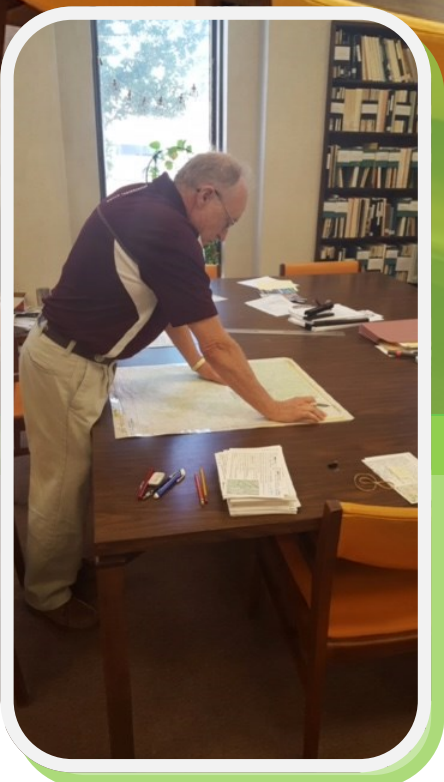
News and images from Patty Miller-Beech



**Left: Kermit Baumgartner assists the archaeologists with survey report maintenance which involves quality control and cleanup of duplicated paper reports in the files.**

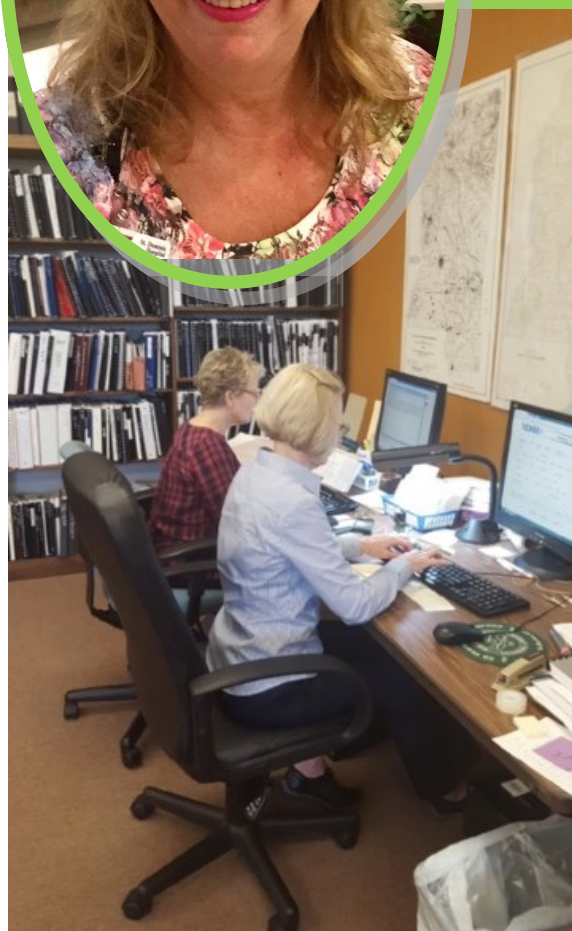
**Below: Reeser Cooksey is also helping with survey report files by locating missing and removing duplicate files. Image courtesy of Reeser Cooksey.**

MDAH appreciates the important work of our volunteers!



**Steve Kelly assists the archaeologists with plotting archaeological sites on paper maps.**

Dr. Glen Graves and Grady Parrot are new volunteers to the Archaeology area, and we are looking forward to hearing about their projects next issue!



**Sue Newman (left) and Jackie Roman (right) are hard at work on data entry. They keep us on “our toes” with the site files and quality control.**



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## Winterville Mounds Archaeological Park

*News and images from Facebook*



Winterville Mounds Archaeological Park hosted its annual Native American Days, October 26-29. Children enjoyed having their faces painted, coloring paper feathered headbands, and making paper gorget necklaces under the children's tent. They also played stickball, Chunkey stone, ran relay races, and shot bows and arrows. This event could not happen without the teamwork of MDAH employees and the wonderful volunteers!



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## ST. NICHOLAS DAY CRAFTS FOR FAMILIES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

3:30-4:30 PM

FREE • RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

*Children ages five to twelve  
and their parents are invited to make  
a Victorian Christmas craft.*

**MANSHIP HOUSE MUSEUM**

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Administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History





# Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

*News and images from Lance Harris*



Mississippi Roads highlights the city of Natchez and two sites on the Mississippi Mound Trail - Emerald Mound and the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. Thank you, Walt Grayson!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Rch\\_V60op4&feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Rch_V60op4&feature=share)

The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians has seen a flurry of activity this fall and we owe a sincere debt of gratitude to the many wonderful volunteers who have made our events successful.

The Grand Village was the first location for the city of Natchez 300th birthday celebration on August 3. In addition to words delivered by notable Natchezians, MDAH director Katie Blount made comment about the significance of the site and Natchez Nation Principal Chief and Great Sun, Hutke Fields, commented on the long and proud history of his people. The Grand Village also celebrated its 40th birthday on September 1. Both of these events, and our annual student days, included educational and fun activities for all ages. We could not have done these events without Brenda Talbot, Pat Martin, Kira Byrd, Brandon McCranie, Wilkie Collins, Melinda Ballard, Bryan Walcott, Jim Barnett, Cheryl Mullins, James Jones, Sabrina Cummings, Janicia and Kim Sago, Kelli Mitchell, and Kay McNeil.

The annual Archaeology Expo was held on October 8 at the Grand Village (image 1, 2 and 3). The event was a tremendous success due to the assistance of Tony Boudreaux and the University of Mississippi Anthropology Department, Ed Jackson and the University of Southern Mississippi Anthropology Department, David Slay and the National Park Service, John Underwood and Lizbeth Vazquez with the Mississippi Department of Transportation, John Sullivan and the Bureau of Land Management, Wilkie Collins, Mark Dingledein, Tony Payne, Bo Pitts, and Susan Fowler.

New volunteers include Bryan Walcott, Brenda Talbot, Melinda Ballard, James Jones of the Adams County Extension Service, and Sabrina Cummings of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Some of our volunteers work behind the scenes, like Pat Martin and Kira Byrd who donated the beautiful and delicious 40th Anniversary cake.



## Capitol Volunteers Gathered for October 31st Meeting

*News from Kathy Broom, images courtesy of Joy Matthews*

Mississippi State Capitol curator Brenda Davis provided volunteers with information regarding the upcoming restoration project of the Capitol. The first part of the project includes the continuation of the repair and replacement of the deteriorated terra cotta around the dome's drum and of the deteriorated roof areas immediately below it. The scaffolding was erected in November. As additional work takes place, information will be shared in upcoming newsletters. The project should be completed in the fall of 2017.

The meeting was held on Halloween, and festive homemade treats of apple cake, chocolate pie, roasted pecans, and pumpkin spice muffins were enjoyed by all. (No tricks –only treats– were included in the get-together.)





## State Capitol Earns National Historic Landmark Designation

*News from the Leadership of the Mississippi House of Representatives and Senate, images courtesy of Adrian Powell, Mississippi State Senate*



The U. S. Department of Interior recently named the Mississippi State Capitol as a National Historic Landmark, a rare designation marking the building's architectural significance.

The Mississippi Legislature and the Department of Archives and History applied for the designation from the National Park Service. There are about 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the United States.

"Walking into the Capitol every day, I am always impressed by the beauty of the architecture and the significance of the history within the walls of this structure," Lt. Governor Tate Reeves said. "This designation ensures this beautiful building, and all of the history contained within, will be preserved for future Mississippians to enjoy."

The designation means the building will be eligible for federal funds if damaged in a presidentially declared disaster.

"The Mississippi Capitol is one of the most beautiful in the country," House Speaker Philip Gunn said. "I am in awe of its beauty and proud to come to work here each day."

Since 1969, the Capitol has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 90,000 sites are on the Register, which includes buildings, archaeology sites, and objects deemed worthy of preservation.

Designed in 1900 by St. Louis architect Theodore Link, the Mississippi Capitol was one of the earliest state capitols built in the style of Beaux Arts Classicism, which came to dominate American public architecture in the early 20th Century. Beaux Arts designers tried to integrate the arts into their classical buildings, including sculpture, stained glass, and mosaic marble floors, as seen at the State Capitol. The building was constructed from 1901 to 1903 for \$1 million, which was funded through a tax lawsuit settlement with Illinois Central Railroad.

The building was designed to house all branches of state government. Currently, only the Legislature, the ceremonial office of the Governor, and an office of the Secretary of State operate in the Capitol.

More than 25,000 visitors from around the world tour the Capitol annually. To schedule a tour, contact Visitors Services at 601-359-3114 or email [Tours@house.ms.gov](mailto:Tours@house.ms.gov).



## Fall Flowers at the Governor's Mansion

*News and images from Megan Bankston*



*Did you know that the Governor's Mansion has a small rose garden? It is located by the north/back wall and is enclosed by a miniature replica of the 1855 cast iron and brick fence that surrounded the Mansion until 1908. Here are some of the blooms we have been enjoying during this warm weather.*



*Left: Plenty of yellow violas were brought in during October for the annual fall planting at the Mansion. Here they are waiting at the west gazebo to be planted. You can now see them thriving around the Mansion grounds. This scenic view is from the second floor window of the Governor's Mansion.*

## Miss Mississippi Visits the Mansion



*Right: Miss Mississippi Laura Lee Lewis toured the Governor's Mansion on August 2. She was as gracious and sweet as she appears on TV and was very interested in learning about our history. We are proud of her finishing in the top 5 in the Miss America pageant!*

*Be sure to see the Governor's Mansion holiday schedule on the last page.*



## Eudora Welty House and Garden: Austen Film Series

News and images from Maggie Stevenson



The Eudora Welty House and Garden (EWHG) had a wonderful time partnering with the Mississippi chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) and the Crossroads Film Society for the Austen Film Series in the Welty Garden. The first movie, *Emma*, was shown in June and then we picked back up in September with *Pride and Prejudice* and in October with *Bride and Prejudice*. Volunteers from JASNA MS, Crossroads and the EWHG helped make these events a grand success. The community came out in droves to support the event, and we all made many, many new friends in the process. In fact, we had so much fun that the decision has been made that in the fall of 2017, the Austen Film Series in the Welty Garden will continue. We will not give any hints as to what movies will be shown, except that they will be good!



To find out more about the Eudora Welty House and Garden and the fun activities we have, visit our website at:

<http://www.mdah.ms.gov/welty/>



## Eudora Welty House and Garden: A Lowcountry Heart

*News and images from Maggie Stevenson*



Through the years, Lemuria Bookstore has become a great partner for the Eudora Welty House and Garden (EWHG). Lemuria frequently brings a wonderful author to the EWHG for a reading. On November 1, we were thrilled to invite the community to celebrate the life and legacy of the late Pat Conroy with his wife, Cassandra King. She signed and read from, *A Lowcountry Heart*, which is a collection of Conroy's nonfiction from interviews and speeches to magazine articles and letters. The highlights of the evening though were the personal stories Cassandra told about Pat Conroy. We could have stayed for a few more hours listening to them.

## Eudora Welty House and Garden: AmeriCorps Visit

*News and images from Maggie Stevenson*

On an unusually hot October day, the EWHG was honored to host the AmeriCorps group stationed in Vicksburg, MS. They were given a whirlwind day of learning Mississippi history, and we were thrilled to talk to them about Eudora Welty, her home, and her accomplishments. I want to thank our volunteers who helped us make their visit a big success, Cindy Lyons, Carol Rietvelt, Ferrell Tadlock, Laura Flint, and Linda Livingston. We couldn't have done it without you, and I think that we learned just as much from the AmeriCorps members as they did from us.

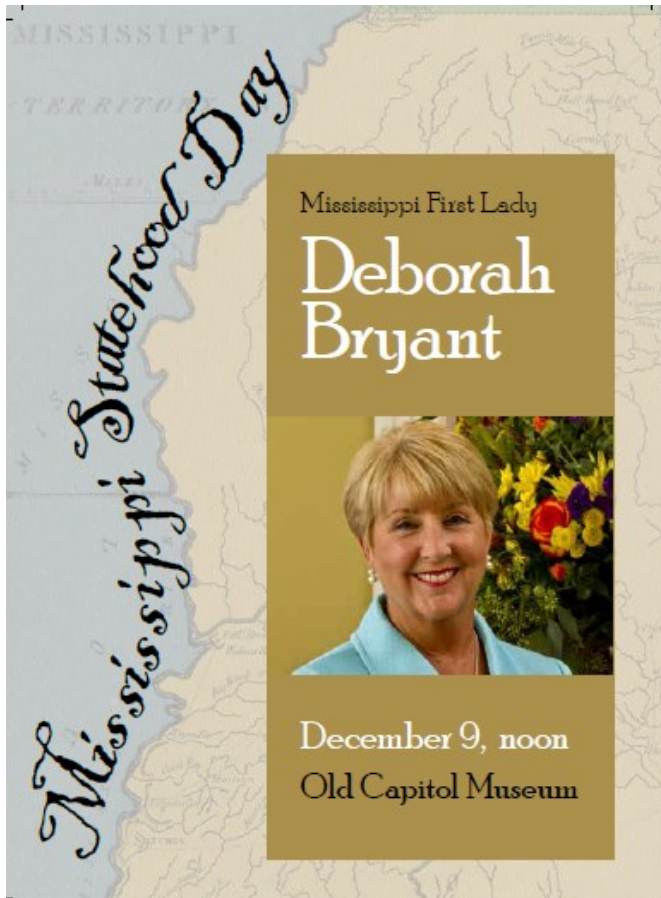


**Above:** Volunteer Carol Rietvelt (left) speaks to one of the AmeriCorps members while the AmeriCorps members visited the site. Laura Flint, also a volunteer, assisted with the large group, too.



**Left:** Volunteer Linda Livingston tells the members about Eudora Welty before they explore the garden.

## Statehood Day at the Old Capitol Museum



### Volunteers are invited to Statehood Day!

\* \* \*

The Board of Trustees of the  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
invites you to attend  
the eighth annual

### Mississippi Statehood Day

featuring an address by

**First Lady Deborah Bryant**

\* \* \*

**Friday, December 9, noon**  
**House of Representatives Chamber**  
**Old Capitol**

**Jackson, Mississippi**

*Reception to follow.*

### AmeriCorps and the Blues at the Old Capitol Museum



*Thanks to Dr. Brinda Willis and  
Blues artist Grady Champion, for  
your brilliant presentation and  
performance about the Blues!*



- MDAH recently hosted an all-day tour of its Jackson sites for the
- AmeriCorps campus located in Vicksburg. Their first stop was the
- Old Capitol Museum where Mississippi Humanities Council speaker
- Dr. Brinda Willis and internationally renowned Blues artist Grady
- Champion enthralled the AmeriCorps members.



## Mississippi History Store

*News and image from Rebecca Jones*

At this time next year, the new **Mississippi History Store** located in the **2 Mississippi Museums** will be on the verge of opening its doors. The December grand opening will be just in time to come by and browse for all of your holiday shopping. This year you can holiday shop at the Eudora Welty House and Garden and the Old Capitol Museum. Use your 15% MDAH volunteer discount and discover some exclusive gift items for those special people on your gift giving list or for yourself.

Each historic site carries its own unique ornament. The Old Capitol likeness is featured in brass, pewter and glass ornaments. The Eudora Welty House and Garden offers a beautifully crafted wooden



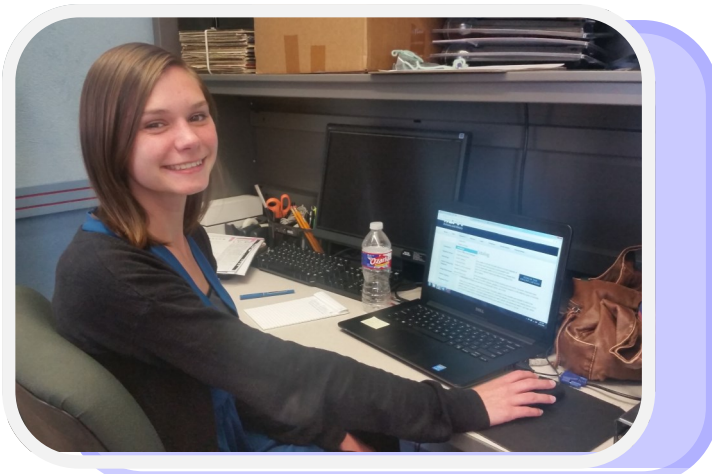
ornament in oak, cherry, and maple. Both sites offer a hand-made Mississippi pottery ornament, complete with jute hanging cord.

Other gift ideas include books, hand-made Mississippi shaped copper bookmarks, key chains, prints, mugs, and many more exclusive items. Drop by and look over the selections! Remember that all of your purchases at these sites contribute to their support and programs. We thank you for your patronage!

If you have questions regarding these unique items or about the new Mississippi History Store, please contact Rebecca Jones at [storemanager@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:storemanager@mdah.ms.gov) or leave a message at 601-576-6921.

## Education Intern Hannah Anders

*News from Claire Gwaltney, image courtesy of Dorian Randall*



This fall the Museum Division Education Section is excited to have the talents of intern Hannah Anders with us! Originally from Texas but currently a student at Belhaven University, Hannah is pursuing a degree in history. Dorian Randall, outreach programs coordinator says that "Hannah is such a joy to work with! She's hardworking, open, and a pleasure to have in the office."

## Historic Jefferson College

*News from Robin Person*

Historic Jefferson College had its most successful Halloween program ever on October 27! Over 600 participants attended the Ghost Tales & After Dark Rubber Duck Hunt, where they listened to not-too-scary ghost stories, and then hunted for more than 1500 rubber ducks that were hidden on the grounds, which they got to keep.

Some kids also found numbered ducks that encouraged them to answer historical questions about HJC, thereby earning an additional Halloween-themed goody bag. The Kiwanis Club of the Natchez Trace helped to hide all those ducks, and also helped direct children during the event. The ghost tales were told by HJC historian Kelli Mitchell and volunteers Liz and Tim Blalock.





## Governor's Mansion Holiday Schedule

*News from Megan Bankston, image courtesy of Ashleigh Coleman*



Season's Greetings! The Mississippi Governor's Mansion will close on November 14 to prepare the Mansion for Christmas decorations as well as for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Mansion will open for Christmas tours on Tuesday, November 29 through Friday, December 16. The Mansion will close again on December 19 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays and will reopen for regular tours on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.



### **21st Christmas by Candlelight is on Friday, December 2, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

This popular annual event features seasonal decorations, live holiday music, and refreshments at the Governor's Mansion, the Eudora Welty House and Garden, the Manship House Museum, the Old Capitol Museum, and the State Capitol. The beloved model trains and family movies of past winter holidays will run at the William Winter Archives Building. Free transportation will take visitors from site to site, with parking available at the Old Capitol and the State Capitol. For more information, call 601-576-6800 or email [info@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:info@mdah.ms.gov).

## Bulletin Board

*MDAH Volunteer Newsletter*

Elizabeth Coleman, editor

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Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Katie Blount, director

### To see the **MDAH** **Calendar of Events**

*Lots to do, people to see, places to go...*

Click the link below.

<http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/category/events-category/>

## Answers

### Test Your Knowledge of Mississippi

1. C) Seminole, Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Creek
2. D) Dancing Rabbit Creek
3. B) Wattle and daub houses



The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902 and is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the country. The mission of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is to collect, preserve, protect, research, and interpret the state's rich and diverse historic resources and to promote the appreciation and use of those resources.